

reason and/or example has been provided to support the conclusion of patentable distinctness between the claims of Groups I and II.

Applicant further notes that the Office has not included as part of the restriction requirement the proposed classes and subclasses which would have to be searched in order to examine the subject matter of Groups I and II. Therefore, it remains unknown whether or not the two groups of claims are, in fact, "separate subject matter for inventive effort." While not taking a stance in either direction, Applicant respectfully notes that a search for the subject matter of Group I will almost surely encompass all of the prior art relevant to the subject matter of Group II. Therefore, as a practical matter, even if (for purposes of argument only) the subject matter of Groups I and II are distinct, there would be no additional search burden on the Office if restriction was not required. Therefore, in acknowledgment of the dictates of MPEP §803, all of the claims in the subject application should be examined in any event:

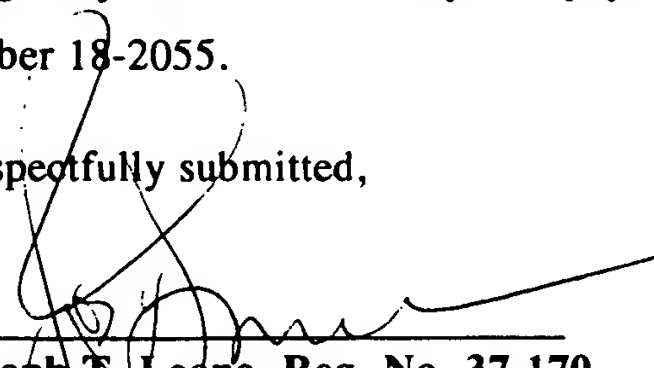
If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the subject restriction requirement as being improper. Withdrawal of the rejection is now requested. Applicant further respectfully requests that the Office examine all of claims 1-10 in the subject application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is now ready for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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